

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Team Captain's report**

Heriots 3XI were crowned as Division 3 league champions this season. With two league Championship wins in two seasons this is one of the best 3XI I've played for. After previous season's successes we were slightly conservative in setting our goals for this season: One: Stay in Division 3, Two: Promotion to Division 2 in that order.

We beat our own expectations and won the title. To top it up, we won the title even more convincingly than last season. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Keith Morton 1XI captain and his team for their successful campaign this season on what might be one of the best ever 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Congratulations to Ali Farooq 2XI captain and his team for managing to stay in Championship which is very important for the development of the club.

I must thank each one of the players who represented the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI this season. It was a top-class all-round performance. Every single player stepped up in one game or the other whenever the team needed. Every player backed and supported each other and played as a team to achieve this success.

We had a great squad with a few new players joining us for 3XI. Special mention to 1XI and 2XI skippers for having a very healthy squad which meant 3's had a bigger pool of players to choose from.

There were several brilliant individual performances such as Chris Sale 111\* (leading run scorer & fantastic wicket keeper) against Grange (maiden hundred for Heriots), classic Balaji Shanmugavadeivel 77\* against Haddington, gritty 61 by Naresh Podugu against Sellkirk, power packed allround performances by our star allrounder Naveen Sudhanaboina (77\*, 55 and 5 wicket hauls), steady knocks from Karthik Manoharan and Chris Jones Jr's match winning knock. Naveen Sudhanaboina has been extremely important for us not just as a match winner with bat and ball but also as a stand in captain. Our bowlers were fantastic too with 5 wicket hauls by our star bowler Bala Palanisamy (leading wicket taker), unlucky but very economical Naresh Podugu, new comers Oliver Fenton and Bala Nagarajan who threatened with pace, spin twins who had the highest strike rate Anil Kumar Kurra and Viraj Prabhu and the ever steady clubman Daryl Turner with his bowling and fielding. We had several others such as Saravanan Manoharan, Sathya Javaadi, Karthik Mohanan, Vijay Rubanathan, Thiru Varathan Senthil Ganesan who have been instrumental in this year's successes.

As a captain I very much cherished the thrashing we gave to Grange 3s and Leith FAB both home and away as well as our away wins against Dunbar and Haddington.

A very special thanks to Club committee for their fantastic support for the 3s and hope to get Kevin McLaren to play more for 3s next season.

Challenge for 3s is to retain the same core group of players as well as attracting players from 2s squad as we move up one division to Division 2 and hopefully we can continue the success through the new season too.